(d) the future plan for cable ducting in these cities;

(e) whether cable ducting programme has been stopped in Calcutta; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be taken up again?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d): Reply is given in the Staement (*See* below)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Do not arise in vies of (e) above.

Statement

Annexure

Regarding Cable ducting in Metropolitan Cities

	Bombay	Delhi	Calcutta	Madras
	752 Kms	605 Kms	241 Kms	191 Kms
1993-94	20 Kms	15 Kms	28 Kms	14 Kms
1994-95	80 Kms	71 Kms	22 Kms	31 Kms
1995-96	130 Kms	76 Kms	3 Kms	21 Kms
No separate funds allotted.				
	100 Kms	100 Kms	40 Kms	25 Kms

Loss Suffered by Cochin Shipyard

*295. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin Shipyard had approved a proposal to enter into a contract with M/s. ABB, Sweden in November, 1993, to revamp 150 T Gantry Crane which was subsequently cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the contractual amount approved in that regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Cochin Shipyard re-tendered the contract and entered into a contract with M/s ABB, Sweden for revamping of 150 T Gantry Crane;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the contractual amount settled for this contract; and

(e) whether there has been any loss suffered by the Cochin Shipyard in this process; if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d): No, Sir. The Cohin Shipyard Ltd. did not re-tender the contract nor did it enter into any contract with M/s ABB, Sweden. However, as the 150 T Gantry Crane installed in the Shipyard in 1979 required replacement of its control system, open tenders were invited and order placed on M/s ABB, India after following the laid down tendering procedure. The contract was placed for Rs. 105 lakhs.

(e) No, Sir. There has been no loss on this contract.

US Mediation to Solve Kashmir Dispute

*296. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by

Government to improve relations with Pakistan;

(b) whether Government envisage taking the help of a mediator like US to help the Jammu and Kashmir problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government desire a relationship of friendship, trust and cooperation with Pakistan. Prime Minister in his letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has suggested that the two countries undertake a wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue and resume the Foreign Secretary level talks. Government have also taken several unilateral measures to promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Pakistan's response to PM's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is awaited.

(b) to (d) India's consistent policy has been that all issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. Our unwavering commitment to the principle of bilateralism in our relationship with Pakistan rules out any third party mediation.

Taking over of Sainik Schools by Ministry of Human Resource Development

*297. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Sainik Schools functioning under the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Human Resource Development to take over these Sainik Schools; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Sainik Schools have not been sending enough candidates to the NDA and that only a little more than 3% of Sainik School students manage to pass the NDA entrance test?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) there are 18 Sainik Schools functioning in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 660 cadets being taken into NDA annually, 60 to 70 cadets on an average for the last six years are from 18 Sainik Schools. Hence, the average intake from only 18 Sainik Schools to NDA is 8 to 11% annually.

डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाना

*298. **श्री राघव जी:** क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राज्यों में डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाने के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या मानदंड निर्धारित किए गए हैं;

(ख) तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) विगत तीन वर्षों में प्रति वर्ष किन-किन राज्यों में अब तक कितने डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है; और

(घ) वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 में और चालू वर्ष में आज तक गुजरात में ऐसे कितने डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है?

संचार मंत्री श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा : (क) और (ख) राज्यों में डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा निश्चित किए गए मानदंड विवरण में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे **देखिए**)

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान जिन डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है, उनकी राज्यवार और वर्ष-वार संख्या विवरण-II में दी गई है (नीचे **देखिए**)

(घ) गुजरात में 1994-95, 1995-96 के दौरान और आज की तारीख तक जिन डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया, उनका विवरण नीचे दिया गया है:—